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towards Biblical Science, and his sphere of influence, as many have cause to know, was by no means confined to the students who had the privilege of coming into personal contact with him in his classes. Truly the late Professor of Hebrew at New College, Edinburgh, was a great power in Hebrew studies, and every one will cordially agree that it was a happy idea to present to a larger circle of readers the fruit of so many years of study. His elaborate article on "Prophecy," in Hastings' *Dictionary of the Bible*, was an admirable piece of conciseness, and many will undoubtedly be glad to turn to the mass of material which is here set forth, naturally with greater fullness.

The aim of the volume is to trace the rise and fall of Hebrew prophecy, to present and explain its successive phases, and to analyse its more characteristic features. Dr. Davidson's particular standpoint will be familiar to others apart from those who know the article above referred to. Although he was not quick to accept and assimilate new ideas, his attitude was one of independence and earnestness. He ignored all that did not appear to be helpful, whilst whatever seemed to him to contain truth was gradually taken in and adjusted to his own general standpoint, to be enunciated in his own characteristic manner. Accordingly, the reader fresh from higher critical studies will be struck by the writer's exceedingly moderate point of view; he will, however, find that the book is none the less fresh and suggestive, and being written in a popular style, with careful avoidance of technical language, it is a work with which all students will do well to acquaint themselves. The personality of the writer and his far-reaching influence in the past give these lectures a peculiar interest which a careful study of them only enhances.

S. A. Cook.

THE OXFORD GESENIUS.

A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament with an *Appendix containing the Biblical Aramaic.* Based on *the Lexicon of William Gesenius.* Part XI. By Francis Brown, D.D., with the co-operation of S. R. Driver, D.D., and Charles A. Briggs, D.D. (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 2*s.* 6*d.*, 1904.)

This great work, which for brevity's sake we may (with the *Encyclopaedia Biblica*) designate BDB, issued its first part in 1892 and has now reached שׁכר. As every Hebrew student knows, it is accurate, complete, and admirably full in every way; the three great names which appear on the title-page are a proof of its scholarship,

and we find it inconceivable to imagine that any one who has once accustomed himself to the use of BDB could prefer any other lexicon The perplexity caused by the numerous abbreviations soon vanishes, and there must be many Hebraists who find it indispensable to their studies. It is a proof of its accuracy that having had occasion to verify a large number of the words in the first half-dozen parts, the present writer found that the total number of misprints scarcely reached into double figures. The few errors, such as they are, are partly due to incomplete information, as when reference was made under ירה to the Palmyrene ירתא which is now read ירתא[נה]. In this connexion it is interesting to observe from the bibliographical and lexicographical notes how steady has been the progress of Hebrew studies. New works appear and are constantly referred to where needful. In the department of inscriptions use has been made (since 1897) of the material collected by Lidzbarski and the present writer, whilst in the new part notice is taken of Mr. G. A. Cooke's Textbook. Careful scrutiny shows that nothing of importance has been overlooked, with the solitary exception of a reference to the place-name שוכה on Hebrew pottery stamps, which is needed on p. 962 b. On p. 897 a (s. v. קרב) the reference to the Old Aramaic קרבן could not be verified (unless it is a reference to the Zenjirli fragment, where the meaning is doubtful); the form, however, occurs in Punic.

Among the most useful features of BDB are (1) the attention paid to corruptions or doubtful forms, and (2) the invaluable bibliographical references. As regards (1), only the most probable emendations are recorded, and although, speaking generally, the proper names are less subjected to criticism, this is to some extent remedied by quoting the Septuagint forms whereby the trustworthiness or doubtfulness of the name may be controlled. The comparatively slight treatment accorded to the proper names appears, for instance, in קֹרַח, 2, who is merely designated a "Levite, rebel against Moses," whereas, in the light of the literary criticism of the Biblical references, a more expanded notice seems desirable. Naturally, it is not easy in such a work as this to keep pace with all that appears, and most readers will be in the habit of adding to the bibliographical references from time to time. For the vocalization, Paul Kahle's *Masoretische Texte d. A. T.*, with its valuable material from a Babylonian MS., will not be overlooked. References, also, might safely be made to the *Encyclopaedia Biblica* in the case of קטרון, קציץ (Emek-keziz), קִרְיוֹת, קִרְקֹר, קשיון, ראובן, רְפִידִים (Rephidim, § 2), רַבִּי, רַהַב, and some others. In conclusion we notice that the name Jeremiah is doubtfully interpreted "Yahweh looseneth [sc. the womb ?]," and קיר "wall" is said to be of unknown derivation. The former statement is an interesting

specimen of the value of Assyriology for Hebrew study, the latter is chiefly of sociological interest. The derivation of גַּג 'roof,' also, is obscure; apparently the Hebrews were indebted to a foreign race for the terms, though presumably not the appurtenances, of town and house-life. The subject is one that might be profitably pursued.

S. A. COOK.

J. W. THIRTLE'S "TITLES OF THE PSALMS."

The Titles of the Psalms: their Nature and Meaning explained: by JAMES WILLIAM THIRTLE. (London, &c., Henry Frowde.)

THIS book embodies a new theory respecting the titles of the Psalms. Hitherto—drastic emendations apart—general opinion has acquiesced perforce in unsatisfactory explanations, none of which are advocated with fervent conviction. But here is a forcible and convincing presentation of a new point of view, and a fresh discussion of the problems in question follows.

The clue which the writer has discovered is obvious once it is discovered and explained: "In a proper arrangement of the material *the lines at the top of a psalm* should... (1) describe the piece, whether a Song, a Psalm, Michtam, &c., (2) state the author... (3) set out the circumstances of its composition... or the object for which it was written.... *Anything not coming within this description belongs to the preceding psalm*" (p. 16). Nor is this merely a happy conjecture, for, as the writer points out, we have in Habakkuk iii a psalm, standing alone, which has a title giving class of the composition, author, and circumstances, while the so-called Musical Title is placed *at the end.*

This original theory then, which postulates no deep-seated corruption of the text and is in itself simple and natural, is definitely supported by good external evidence. Further, when applied, it immediately approves itself—in some cases. Thus, according to the common arrangement, Ps. lxxxviii is attributed by the title to two distinct writers: (1) "A Song *or* Psalm for the sons of Korah, to the chief Musician upon Mahalath Leannoth, (2) Maschil of Heman the Ezrahite" (A.V.). On Mr. Thirtle's theory, (1) is a foot-note to Ps. lxxxvii, giving its liturgical use, and repeating also (cf. Ps. xlvi) the information contained in the title at the beginning, "A Psalm *or* Song for the sons of Korah." Similarly, the title of Ps. xlvi gains in point and pertinency if it is attached to Ps. xlv. Thus the praises of "the King's daughter" are fittingly allotted to the choir of Maidens (Alamoth). And in the case of the title of Ps. lvi the connexion of